REMARKS:

Claims 1, 2, 10-12, 16-17, 19 and 21-22 are pending in the application of which claim 1 is an independent claim.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 10-12, 16, 17, 19 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nose et al. in view of Mendelovich et al., Inagaki et al. and Akemi et al, the admitted prior art and Sosa et al. Sosa et al. is a newly cited reference. Therefore, Applicants believe that Applicants' amendments and remarks submitted on December 5, 2007 have overcome the rejection against claim 1 based on a combination of the other references, i.e., Nose et al., Mendelovich et al., Inagaki et al. and Akemi et al.

The Examiner indicates in the Office Action that Sosa et al. teaches that zinc stearate is a conventional mold release agent added to polystyrene when molding articles. Claim 1 as amended above now excludes zinc stearate from the non-stick materials recited in claim 1. Hence, claim 1 as amended now recites the limitation that the housing contains in it a non-stick material selected from a group consisting of magnesium stearate, aluminum stearate and calcium stearate. None of the cited references including Sosa et al. discloses or teaches the limitation. Therefore, claim 1 as amended above should be patentable over the cited references. Since claim 1 is patentable over the cited references, its dependent claims should also be patentable.

The Examiner reiterates in the Office Action that Inagaki et al. shows that projections to limit adhesion can be cylindrical, such as those of Mendelovich et al., or spherical or conical, both of which have a single point higher than any other point thereof. The Examiner goes on to state that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to replace the cylindrical projections of the transfer tool of the references as combined with either special or conical projections of Inagaki.

Applicants respectfully submit that Inagaki teaches away from the present invention recited in claim 1. In Inagaki, a protection member, which may be conical shape objects, is attached on the adhesive surface to prevent the adhesive layer from being directly touched by human fingers. In other words, the protection member of Inagaki is to protect the adhesive surface. For this purpose, the protection member is attached to the adhesive surface and projects

therefrom. On the other hand, in the present invention, the projections are to protect the inner surface of the housing from being contacted by the adhesive surface of the adhesive film. For this purpose, the projections of the present invention project from the inner surface of the housing towards the adhesive surface of the adhesive film.

Since the Inagaki protection member is attached to the adhesive surface, the adhesive surface is necessarily weakened in its adhesive power by the protection member. The weakened adhesive would not help an adhesive film separated from a substrate when it is pressed against a targeted object. In other words, the weakened adhesive contradicts with the purpose of the transfer tool in which the adhesive film has to be firmly adhered to a target object while being easily separated from the substrate. Inagaki et al. teaches away from the very purpose of the transfer tool and cannot be used to reject the present invention.

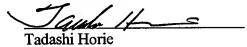
In addition, Inagaki does not disclose a substrate from which an adhesive film is removed. Thus, Inagaki is necessarily silent about the substrate recited in claim 1 which is processed to exhibit releasability on both surfaces. Since projections are provided to the adhesive surface, if Inagaki is used in a transfer device, the adhesive surface may be unlikely to adhere to the inner surface of the transfer device, but it is also unlikely to adhere to the object. Inagaki if used in the transfer device could not achieve the very purpose of the transfer device.

Claim 1 as amended above recites that the adhesive film comprises an acrylic adhesive and a tackifier. Such an adhesive film exhibits an ordinary adhesive power, but which adhesive power would never be weakened because the film is not attached with any projections as disclosed in Inagaki. The present invention has projections provided on the housing. The projections are not for weakening the adhesive power of the adhesive film but for hampering the adhesive film from adhering to the housing without weakening the adhesive power of the adhesive film.

As the present invention identifies the problem of applying a non-stick material, the projections of Akemi are likewise formed on a finished package. On the other hand, the projections of the present inventions are formed by injection molding at the time the housing is molded. Therefore, Akemi suffers an additional manufacturing step, with which the present invention dispenses.

The present invention defines the projections, the configuration of the projections, an inclusion of a non-stick material and its inclusion ratio to optimally solve problems peculiar to the transfer device associated with the use of a polar material for the housing, the substrate, a transfer of the adhesive film, the use condition of the adhesive, the molding of the housing and the usability of the transfer device. On the other hand, Sosa, Inagaki and Akemi are all directed to technology areas other than the transfer device technology and only partly disclose the present invention. Sosa, Inagaki and Akemi do not have any suggestions to apply their features to the transfer device technology. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art of transfer devices would not have any clue to combine these cited references. Even if they may be able to be combined, since they are directed to different technology areas, they would not provide any solutions to the problems peculiar to the transfer device technology.

Respectfully submitted,



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